

ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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Co-Chairs:

Hon. Clyde Burmaster
Hon. William A. Pauly

MEMORANDUM

To: ENRP Chairs Burmaster & Pauly
From: ENRP Tourism & Culture Subcommittee Chair Crystal Peoples
Re: February, 2001 subcommittee meeting
Date: March 30, 2001

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Tourism & Culture Subcommittee met February 23, 2001 at the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. Present for the meeting were Subcommittee members Peoples, Greenan, and Rubin, as well as representatives from the GBCVB, NFCVB, and the NFTA.

Following ENRP approval to pursue joint publication of a tourism guide and a pilot shuttle service between Buffalo and Niagara Falls, representatives from the area's tourism agencies have become an integral part of our subcommittee's work, as has the NFTA.

The GBCVB and the NFCVB have conducted surveys of area tourists to get a better idea as to the potential use for said shuttle service. In the meantime, Erie County applied for state funds for the effort. The proposal is for a two-year pilot program consisting of a shuttle running between Niagara Falls and Buffalo.

Several possible details were discussed for the project. In the end it was agreed that a deep subsidy would be needed in order to keep the price affordable, perhaps around five dollars. On the topic of possible stops, it was agreed that the service needed to be faster than the current bus operations. One solution would be to have two routes with different stops – a family route and a more “highbrow” route.

The NFTA agreed to advance this project with the NFCVB and GBCVB. More details will be worked out at the April subcommittee meeting. The goal is to have the shuttle in place for this tourist season if possible.

Mr. Samuel Ferraro * Hon. John Greenan * Mr. Clyde Johnston * Ms. Maria Lehman * Hon. Peter McMahon * Hon. Gerald Meal * Mr. Robert Miller * Hon. Sean
O'Connor * Hon. Crystal Peoples * Mr. Lawrence Rubin * Mr. David Rutecki * Mr. Kevin Schuler * Mr. John Simon * Hon. Robert Villani *
Hon. Barry Weinstein, M.D. * Mr. Peter Wendel * Ad Hoc: Mr. Luke Rich